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SHORT REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 6TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE LUSAKA BASED MULPOC FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES 14-16 FEBRUARY 1983

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Section VI - Natural Resources - of the report of the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Lusaka-Based MULPOC for Eastern and Southern African State contained resolutions concerning actions referred to the ECA for implementation in the field of Cartography. This report outlines the actions taken on the resolutions, and has also attempted to highlight the difficulties encountered with regard to their complete implementation.

1. Preliminary Report on the Appraisal of National Cartographic Institutions and the Study on Manpower requirements

Paragraph 65 of the report clearly indicates what action was required from the ECA. Unfortunately, due to lack of resources to undertake missions to the remaining Lusaka-MULPOC countries not covered in the preliminary report presented at the meeting in February 1983, it has not been possible for the ECA to collect data on which to base the writing of a report on the appraisal, publication and distribution of the final report at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of MULPOC in 1984 as requested. However, ECA sent out questionnaires not only to countries within the Lusaka-Based MULPOC area but also to the other African countries in order to be able to assess the development of Cartographic services generally and subsequently, assess the manpower requirements in the field of Cartography. At the eighth meeting of the Council of Ministers of the MULPOC, ECA will be able to publish and distribute the final report if resources for missions are available and/or the questionnaires returned are rich enough to complete the exercise.

2. Draft Progress Report on Assistance to Uganda to re-establish its Geodetic Network

Paragraph 68 of the same report outlines clearly what actions should be taken. First, the Ugandan Government was to seek bilateral assistance to rehabilitate other cartographic infrastructures quite apart from the geodetic network. The Government was to place this high on its priority list. The

representative of Uganda will be in a better position to report on the actions taken in that regard.

Although ECA was requested to secure international technical assistance for Uganda to rehabilitate its geodetic network as well as strengthen other cartographic sectors that depend on geodetic survey work, the initiative ought to have come from the Government because it has to identify unambigously its priorities in the strengthening and rehabilitation exercise. It is only then that the ECA can proceed to jointly formulate projects to implement those identified priorities.

In November 1983, the ECA representative who attended the meeting of the Contract Committee of the Nairobi Centre, had an opportunity of discussing the implementation of this part of the resolution with the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. J. Opio, in the Ugandan Ministry of Lands, Minerals and Water Resources. There and then, a copy of the preliminary report prepared jointly by the Nairobi Centre and the ECA in 1983, resulting from a mission to implement this same resolution adopted in 1982 and presented at the meeting of the Council of Ministers in 1983, was delivered to her for study and further comments. ECA has since not received any comments from the Ugandan Government.

It must be pointed out that the restitution of the alleged lost first order points during the civil disturbances some years ago is enormous and will require not only huge sums of money from several sources but also a large number of trained personnel who can operate first order instrument for the necessary observations and computation of the results. Happily enough, Uganda is a participating country in the Nairobi Center which has embarked upon investigating the strength of the geodetic network in the subregion. It has often being assumed that there are inconsistencies or discrepancies in the networks in many of the countries in the Eastern and Southern subregion which had the fortune of having the thirtieth meridian arch survey passing through their territories. In addition, the Nairobi Centre has observed some Doppler points in Uganda in pursuance of the ADOS project. The first order points which are to be established can reasonably be tied to the zero-order Doppler points. In effect a start has been made and this will have to be followed up enthusiastically in order to achieve satisfactorily the full implementation of this part of the resolution.

3. Progress Report on Assistance to the Government of Mozambique in manpower needs in the field of Cartography

This resolution is contained in paragraph 69 of the report of the sixth meeting of the Council of Ministers. ECA could not go beyond what it had planned and which was reported at the 6th meeting because resources were not available to undertake necessary missions. However, ECA took advantage of the visit of the Resident Representative in Mozambique to ECA Headquarters towards the latter part of 1983 to find out how the UNDP Office in Mozambique can assist towards the implementation of this resolution as regards financing the missions involved or providing funds for the recruitment of a consultant under the supervision of the ECA. There was then a ray of hope that it was possible to do so from the country's IPF if the Government of Mozambique places this request high among its priorities. The Resident Representative also provided to obtain from New York a copy of a report which can serve as a working paper for the work involved. So far ECA has not received any report from the Resident Representative.